

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan for Stroubles Creek Watershed

A TMDL study was completed and approved for the benthic impairment in Stroubles Creek watershed in January 2004. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) intend to facilitate development of a TMDL implementation plan (IP) for the Stroubles Creek watershed in Montgomery County and the Town of Blacksburg. A public meeting on the project will be held for interested stakeholders on **June 1st in the Blacksburg Town Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 300 South Main Street from 7:00 – 9:00 pm.** The purpose of the meeting is to initiate the implementation planning process. The goal of the IP is to identify and quantify corrective actions (*i.e.*, BMPs) necessary to obtain the nonpoint source load allocations for the various sources identified in the TMDL study. IPs must include, not only corrective actions, but also measurable goals based on monitoring or implementation milestones, an implementation schedule, cost/benefit analysis, a monitoring plan, and a target date for achieving compliance with water quality standards.

While there is no current requirement under the Federal Clean Water Act that TMDL implementation plans be prepared, there is a state requirement based on the 1997 Virginia Water Quality Monitoring, Information and Restoration Act. DCR has provided funding and support to date for the development of five implementation plans that address bacteria and benthic impairments for 18 stream segments, with three additional implementation plans in the initial start-up stage. DEQ also provides funding and support for implementation plan development, including this one for Stroubles Creek.

The implementation planning process is expected to take 9 – 12 months and will be overseen by a steering committee consisting of agencies, organizations, and citizens. During this meeting, interested persons will be encouraged to participate in working groups focused on agriculture, residential/urban, and government issues. Such working groups will help to insure that the information used in the IP is accurate and that the IP reflects the concerns/issues of the watershed stakeholders. Additional public participation and input will be possible through additional public meetings.

The public comment period for this phase of the TMDL development will end on July 1, 2005. Questions or information requests should be addressed to Jason Hill. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Jason Hill, Department of Environmental Quality, 3019 Peters Creek Road, Roanoke, Virginia, 24019, telephone (540) 562-6724, Fax (540) 562-6860, or e-mail jrhill@deq.state.va.us.